

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A transfer system comprising:

a plurality of transfer lines, (L) each transfer line forming of which forms a closed loop and ~~has having~~ transfer-in stations ( $S_1$  and  $S_3$ ) and transfer-out stations ( $S_2$  and  $S_4$ ) for assembling parts ( $p_1$  to  $p_5$ ) to a work ( $D_L$  and  $D_R$ ), while circulating the work ( $D_L$  and  $D_R$ ) along the transfer line (L);

a work and part transfer passage (51) for transferring the work ( $D_L$  and  $D_R$ ) and the parts ( $p_1$  to  $p_5$ ); and

sub-transfer-passages ( $52_1$  and  $52_2$ ) branching out from the work and part transfer passage (51);

wherein the work and part transfer passage completely separates the plurality of transfer lines into first and second groups of transfer lines, wherein longitudinal ends of each of the transfer lines (L) face line faces a side of the work and part transfer passage (51);

wherein the transfer-in stations ( $S_1$  and  $S_3$ ) and the transfer-out stations ( $S_2$  and  $S_4$ ) are disposed at each of the longitudinal ends of each of the transfer lines (L); and

wherein the sub-transfer-passages ( $52_1$  and  $52_2$ ) completely separate the plurality of transfer lines into third and fourth groups of transfer lines, which are different from the first and second groups of transfer lines and wherein the sub-transfer-passages are disposed on longitudinally sides of the transfer lines (L).

2. **(Currently Amended)** A transfer system according to claim 1, wherein longitudinal ends of a pair of the transfer lines (L) face opposite sides of the work and part transfer passage (51).

3. **(Currently Amended)** A transfer system according to claim 2, wherein transfer directions of the pair of the transfer lines ( $L$ ) disposed on the opposite sides of the work and part transfer passage ( $51$ ) are reverse to each other; the transfer-in stations ( $S_1$  and  $S_3$ ) of one transfer line ( $L$ ) oppose to the same of the other transfer line ( $L$ ), with the work and part transfer passage ( $51$ ) therebetween; and the transfer-out stations ( $S_2$  and  $S_4$ ) of one transfer line ( $L$ ) oppose to the same of the other transfer line ( $L$ ), with the work and part transfer passage ( $51$ ) therebetween.

4. **(Currently Amended)** A transfer system according to claim 1, wherein a pair of the transfer lines ( $L$ ) are disposed along one side of the sub-transfer-passages ( $52_1$  and  $52_2$ ), and another pair of the transfer lines ( $L$ ) are disposed along the other side of the sub-transfer-passages ( $52_1$  and  $52_2$ ).